

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN STANLEY (STAN) FISHER**, on February 6,  
2003 at 8:05 A.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Stanley (Stan) Fisher, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Corey Stapleton, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Keith Bales (R)  
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)  
Rep. Carol C. Juneau (D)  
Rep. Dave Lewis (R)  
Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Marian Collins, Committee Secretary  
Brent Doig, OBPP  
Todd Younkin, Legislative Branch

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed. The time  
stamp for these minutes appears at the beginning  
of the content it refers to.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: None  
Executive Action: Department of Labor & Industry

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY**

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0.1 - 1.2}***

**SEN. BALES** moved to **ADOPT THE FISCAL 2002 BASE FOR ALL FUNDING EXCEPT FOR GENERAL FUND AND STATEWIDE PRESENT LAW ADJUSTMENTS AS REQUESTED FOR ALL FUNDS. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.**

**Todd Younkin, LFD**, informed the subcommittee that **Sen. Bales'** motion starts the deliberations at the adjusted base level for the nongeneral fund. It did not include any of the executive decisions packages.

**REP. LEWIS** suggested to the committee that the ChalleNGe Program should be funded with general fund rather than ESA (Employment Security Account). **SEN. BALES** agreed with **REP. LEWIS'** statement and also stated that ESA is essentially a fee collected from employers for dealing with unemployment. **SEN. BALES** commented that previous testimony reported the Unemployment Insurance Division is twenty employees short, causing a drop in division effectiveness. There is a need in that division for more employees.

**Mr. Younkin** reported that if this subcommittee switches funding for the Youth ChalleNGe Program, it will free up \$2.2 million of the ESA money. This will leave about \$1.5 million in appropriations out of the ESA account that is not covered with a fund switch or any other type of backfill in the executive budget. **CHAIRMAN FISHER** asked how much longer the ESA fund would be solvent. **Mr. Younkin** responded that the latest projection by the Department had the ESA fund at zero balance by the end of 2005.

***{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12.5 - 13}***

**Motion/Vote:** **REP. LEWIS** moved to **RECONSIDER ACTIONS CONCERNING FUNDING THE YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM WITH GENERAL FUNDS INSTEAD OF ESA. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.**

**Wendy Keating, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry**, informed the committee that the Apprenticeship and Training program grants are reimbursable grants for small, independent employers, usually in rural areas, to offset training costs while working with an apprentice.

Discussion following concerning ESA and Reed Act funding.

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 28.4 - 28.7}*

**SEN. SCHMIDT** questioned the validity of the Job Registry program. After some discussion, no action was taken.

*{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 28.9 - 30.}*

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 2.4 - 7.4}*

**SEN. STAPLETON** stated that the Displaced Homemaker Program is listed as a low-priority program with the Department of Labor and Industry. Due to that, he recommended this committee not act on it. **REP. LEWIS** expressed support for the program. **Ingrid Childress, Department of Labor and Industry**, stated that the program has served about 160 individuals per year, and has placed close to 80% in employment. **REP. CALLAHAN** asked if there is anywhere else these individuals can receive services offered by the Displaced Homemaker Program. **Ms. Childress** stated that services can be obtained through a variety of other agencies. **REP. LEWIS** stated that his sister participated in the program and he feels it saved her life. The program may not serve a large number of individuals but it serves them well.

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 7.5 - 8}*

**Motion/Vote:** **REP. LEWIS** moved to **PROVIDE ESA FUNDING AUTHORITY FOR THE DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAM**. Motion carried 5-2 with **REP. FISHER** AND **SEN. STAPLETON** voting no by roll call vote.

The Apprenticeship and Training Program was discussed and no action was taken.

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 11 - 11.9}*

**Motion/Vote:** **REP. CALLAHAN** moved that **THE JOBS FOR MONTANA'S GRADUATES BE FUNDED THROUGH THE ESA**. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 14.4 - 15.1}*

**Motion/Vote:** **SEN. SCHMIDT** moved that **HUMAN RIGHTS CSD AND ERD DIVISIONS BE FUNDED WITH ESA MONEY**. Motion carried 6-1 with **SEN. STAPLETON** voting no by voice vote.

**Motion/Vote:** **REP. CALLAHAN** moved that **THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES BE FUNDED WITH ESA MONEY**. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 19 - 20}*

**Motion/Vote:** REP. LEWIS moved that LFD STAFF BE ALLOWED TO ADJUST THE DOLLARS IN DP 7001 TO RECOGNIZE AMENDMENTS BY CORRECTIONS/PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 22.4 - 23.5}*

**Motion/Vote:** REP. JUNEAU moved to REQUEST A SUBCOMMITTEE BILL TO COVER REMOVAL OF THE JOB REGISTRY PROGRAM. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

**Motion/Vote:** REP. LEWIS moved to ACCEPT THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET FOR ALL NON-GENERAL FUND INCLUDING THE REQUESTED PROPRIETARY RATES. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

**Motion/Vote:** SEN. SCHMIDT moved to CLOSE EXECUTIVE ACTION ON THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

*{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 32 - 32.4}*

*{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0.2 - 3.}*

**Motion:** SEN. STAPLETON moved to RECONSIDER ACTIONS ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) FOR A TOTAL REDUCTION WHICH WOULD BE INCLUSIVE OF ANY REDUCTION PREVIOUSLY TAKEN.

**Discussion:** SEN. STAPLETON requested the reconsideration in order to review a vacant position. The subcommittee discussed whether to reconsider actions without the PSC present, or re-convene this subcommittee and allow the PSC to participate.

**Substitute Motion/Vote:** SEN. CALLAHAN moved to INVITE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BACK BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE TO DEFEND THEIR POSITION. Motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

February 6, 2003

PAGE 5 of 5

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 9:10 A.M.

---

REP. STANLEY (STAN) FISHER, Chairman

---

MARIAN COLLINS, Secretary

SF/MC

**EXHIBIT** (jch26aad)